

Interpretive Programs And Other Park Events!

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



Scarlet Tanager

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Dawn Komaskinski

June Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Monday June 2

10am To the Beaver Lodge and Back! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for an hour stroll exploring the largest rodent at the Dunes. We'll head out on Trail 10 and show you one of the largest beaver lodges around, and be back in about an hour. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet everyday to get you started or help you along. DG

Tuesday June 3

10am Mt. Tom Bound! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DK

Wednesday June 4

10am Swamp Safari! Join Dawn for a morning exploration of the dune swamps. Meet at the Nature Center as we suit up with dip nets and bowls and hike to the wetland edge to explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Great family fun! DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DK

Thursday June 5

10am A Walk Through Time. Join the naturalist for a walk through geological time. Meet at the Pavilion for this 45 min. moderate walk as we investigate the changing scenery as you move away from Lake Michigan. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Critter Feeding Time. Flock to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center frogs, turtles, and snakes. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program! DK

Friday June 6

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Lion Hunt. Join us for a safari as we search for the mighty ant lion that roams the dunes. We'll meet at the Nature Center for a moderate hike into the high dunes. Will we see a lion today? Join us to find out! DG

Saturday June 7

Today is National Trails Day. Join us for a hike today!

10:00am Dune Hiking! Hit the high dunes with us this morning as we explore the highest point in the Indiana Dunes. We'll explore the sights and sounds on the way during this hour walk. DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Babies! Baby animals are out and about right now. From young fawns to ducklings, come to the Nature Center and learn about these cute critters! DK

8:30pm Whooo Goes There...! You do on this creature of the night program! Meet the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the owls that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll also venture outside (possible car pool) so we can try to "hoot" some up! Kids under 12, please bring a parent. DG

Sunday June 8

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Turtle Time! Scoot your carapaces into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! DG

Monday June 9

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Geocaching Jaunt. Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno-twist! Meet at the Nature Center and learn about the new hobby of geocaching, and try your hand at finding one for yourself. Prizes for the kids! Join us! DG

Tuesday June 10

10am Tuesday Tanager Trek. Tanagers are back from the tropics and can be found here in the Dunes. Join us for an hour stroll looking for these brightly colored birds. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DG

Wednesday June 11

10am Dune Geology Join Dale for a fascinating look at how the dunes were formed. Meet in the auditorium for this 30 minute, interactive program.

Thursday June 12

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Critter Feeding Time. Flock to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center frogs, turtles, and snakes. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program! DK

Friday June 13

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Greening Your Life. Join us in the Nature Center for a look at what you can do to turn your life green. We'll look at what you can do in your own home to help save money and help the environment. Join us! DG

Saturday June 14

9am Dunes Spirit Carving Workshop. Registration is required for this special Friends of Indiana Dunes Field Course Workshop. Participants will learn the art of wood spirit carving, and get a chance to create their own. Registration fees are \$25, and reservations can be made by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390. Workshop will take place in our Campground Shelter.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! BB

3:00pm Making Your Own Field Guide. Come learn to make your own tree field guide. This 45 min. activity will meet at the Nature Center and will have an easy walk around the Nature Center to look for leaves to put in your field guide. Join us! DK

8pm Sunset Stroll. The sunset over Lake Michigan is the most beautiful in the state! Join us at the Campground Shelter (by site 116) for a moderate walk to the highest dune in Indiana (Mt. Tom!). We'll watch the sun set, then enjoy the forest twilight as we hike back. Kids under 12, please bring a parent. BB, DK

Sunday June 15:

Happy Father's Day!

9:30am Breakfast with the Birds. Grab dad and join us for our monthly birds and breakfast. We meet every month in the Nature Center bird observation room for a short discussion, then head off on the trail in search of the morning's birds. Join us! BB

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Wetland Wander. Explore the life in the dune swamps today. Gather at the Nature Center for a short hike into the Great Marsh, as we look for the plants and animals that call this place home. We'll be out for less than an hour. DK

Monday June 16

10am Dig Me A River! Come explore the life of a river along the Indiana Dunes. We'll create our own and watch how the winds and sand move it around. Meet at the Beach Pavilion. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet everyday to get you started or help you along. BB

Tuesday June 17

10am Dune Hiking! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! BB

Wednesday June 18

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Reptile Review! What's it like being a reptile in the dunes? Find out in this fun 45 minute discovery program outside the Nature Center. We'll discuss the turtles, snakes, and lizards of the park! Great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these types of animals. DK

8:30pm Moonrise Stroll. Join us as we watch the sun set, and a full moon rise in the east! Meet at the Beach Pavillion for a trek onto Trail 3. We'll explore how animals utilize the moonlight along the way, and be back within an hour. Kids under 12, please bring a parent. Join us! DG

Thursday June 19

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Wetland Wander. Join us this afternoon for a fun look at the bugs, plants, and critters that call the swamp home. We'll take some pond nets for an hour wetland discovery! Meet at the Nature Center. DK

Friday June 20

10am Fossils, Rocks, & Minerals. Come and discover the types of fossils that you may find in the Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DK

3pm A Dam Good Hike. What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! DG

6pm Campground Crafts! Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DK

Saturday June 21

10:00am Scavenger Hunt! Explore the new hobby of geocaching as we head off on a high tech scavenger hunt this morning! Meet at the Nature Center, from where we'll take off on a 45-minute adventure. Great family fun! BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist near the beach pavilion with some cool critters of the dunes. DK

Sunday June 22

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Critter Feeding Time! Flock to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center frogs, turtles, and snakes. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program! DK

Monday June 23

10am The Dunes in Bloom. Meet outside the Nature Center for a morning stroll in search of the summer early summer flowers in the dune woodlands. We'll be out for about an hour. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DG

Tuesday June 24

10am Sands of Time. Join Dale for a fascinating look at how the dunes were formed. We'll explore the sands of the dunes, as well as other sands from around the world! Meet in the auditorium for this 30 minute, interactive program.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DG

Wednesday June 25

10am Get Lost! Get lost with the naturalist this morning, as we explore the uses of compass work and orienteering. Will we make it back before lunch?... we hope so! Meet at the Nature Center. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DG

Thursday June 26

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DG

3pm A Box Turtle Lunch. No, we're not eating box turtles today! But, you can help us feed our box turtle and some of our other Nature Center critters in the Nature Center auditorium this afternoon. Great family program! DK

Friday June 27

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Top of the Dunes: Mt. Jackson Bound! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Jackson, the third highest point in the park. We'll stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center. DG

6pm Campground Crafts! Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DK

Saturday June 28

10am Top of the Dunes: Mt. Tom Bound! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll take a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! DK

3:00pm Naturalist on the Run! Watch for the Naturalist this afternoon, as he roves with his mystery critter bucket. What will he have with him today? Keep your eyes peeled to find out! DG

8:30pm Singing Sands Star Show! Join us for our annual event. Meet local astronomers from the Calumet Astronomical Society for a night of star gazing. Special telescopes will be set up as well as periodic constellation talks. Bring a blanket and join us on the main beach, near the pavilion. Activities going on through 11pm. Optimal star gazing after 9:30pm. BB, DG, DK

Sunday June 29

10am Top of the Dunes: Mt. Holden Bound! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Holden, the second highest point in the park. We'll stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 2 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist near the beach pavilion with some cool critters of the dunes. DK

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a campsite or shelter reservation at 1-866-622-6746 or on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov

Indiana Dunes 11th Annual Sand Sculpture Contest

Coming July 12th

Join us on Saturday, July 12th, as we bring back the 11th Annual Sand Sculpture Contest. Whether it's your basic sand castle, or something more creative, try your hand at molding your best sand creation. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including "viewer's choice"!

Even if you're not very creative, come by and vote for your favorite sculpture. Many great prizes will be available.

Activities are free, after paying the usual gate fees (\$5.00 in state, \$10.00 out of state). For more information, call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

